Master’s Entry Program
Clinical Nurse Leader

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The University of Virginia School of Nursing offers an accelerated Master’s-Entry track for non-nurses who wish to enter the nursing professional at an advanced clinical leadership level. The MSN-Entry Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program is for non-nurses who have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. The Master’s-Entry CNL program takes into account your educational, career, and life experiences as well as your critical thinking ability and maturity as you prepare to become a leader in nursing and health care. This program is an accelerated full-time, 24-month program that leads to the award of a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. While the Clinical Nurse Leader is not an advanced practice role, CNL graduates are eligible to apply for continued advanced practice nursing education. The University of Virginia prepares Clinical Nurse Leaders through multiple pathways (Master’s-Entry, Post-BSN, and Associate Degree plus BA/BS).

The Master’s-entry CNL pathway is an exciting program for individuals with motivation and intelligence to pursue graduate study and prepare for nursing leadership at an accelerated pace. The complexity of health care systems today demands an increased focus on improving outcomes with knowledge of quality measures and safety assessment. The UVa CNL-prepared nurse innovates health care delivery with expertise in interprofessional practice, team leadership and quality improvement. As healthcare delivery and systems becomes more complex, UVa CNLs are trained to be experts in quality and safety in a variety of healthcare settings. This specialized knowledge places them at the forefront of improving and evaluating clinical outcomes and establishing themselves as leaders at the bedside and beyond.

Graduates of the Master’s-Entry CNL program will receive a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and are eligible to apply for the R.N. licensure examination. In addition, graduates are eligible for national CNL certification.

PROGRAM FORMAT
- 75 credits for Master’s Entry Program; 24 months full-time
- Program sites in Charlottesville and at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon
- CNL students are mentored by veteran clinical nurses and faculty throughout the duration of the program – over 1,000 hours in all

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
Students who complete the Master’s Degree program for Clinical Nurse Leaders are able to:
- Provide and manage care for individuals and populations in a variety of health care settings;
- Design, implement, and evaluate care by coordinating, delegating, and supervising care provided by the health care team;
- Provide leadership and assume accountability for client care outcomes by applying evidence-based information to design, implement, and evaluate client plans of care;
- Succeed in the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Students must meet all admissions requirements for the degree. Students with undergraduate GPAs under 3.25 must also complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

The following courses need to be completed at an accredited college/university before enrollment in May:
- Human Anatomy (within past 5 years)
- Human Physiology (within past 5 years)
- Microbiology (within past 5 years)
- Statistics (within past 5 years)
- A course in Human Development, Human Growth, or Development Psychology

International students must demonstrate ability in English and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Admissions deadline for Master’s Entry applicants:
- Summer Session: October 1
Program of Study for Clinical Nurse Leader Students

Summer Session
  Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
  Health Assessment & Clinical Interventions (4)
  Clinical Practice and Decision-Making (CPDM): Women and Childbearing Families (3)

Fall Semester
  Introduction to Nursing Leadership & Healthcare System (2)
  Graduate Pathophysiology (4)
  Pharmacology (3)
  CPDM: Nursing Care of Adults & Older Adults (4)
  CPDM: Persons with Psychiatric Illness (3)

Spring Semester
  Leading Teams: Collaboration, Coordination & Change (1)
  Theory & Evidence-Based Practice (4)
  Care Environment Management I (3)
  CPDM: Adults with Common Health Problems (3)
  CPDM: Complex Health Problems (3)

Summer Session
  Culture and Health (2)
  CPDM: Nursing Care of Children & Families (3)
  CPDM: Community Health (3)

Fall Semester
  Leadership Seminar: Microsystem Analysis and Capstone Development (1)
  Care Environment Management II (3)
  Ethics, Nursing, and the Larger Healthcare Arena (3)
  Epidemiology & Global Health (3)
  CPDM: Synthesis Practicum (5)

Spring Semester
  Health Policy: Local to Global (3)
  The CNL in the Healthcare System (3)
  CNL Capstone Practicum (5)

Updated 8/15/2014